



COPY

RECEIVED

EXHIBIT 15

AUG 7 2018

PLANNING BOARD  
GRAFTON, MA

August 3, 2018

Joseph Laydon  
Town Planner  
Grafton Municipal Center  
30 Providence Road  
Grafton, MA 01519

Maria Mast  
Conservation Agent  
Grafton Municipal Center  
30 Providence Road  
Grafton, MA 01519

**Re: Knowlton Farms Solar Development – Phase 3, 44 Estabrook Ave.  
Special Permit, Site Plan, Stormwater Management Regulations and Wetland Regulations Review**

Dear Mr. Laydon and Ms. Mast:

We are in receipt of the review letter from Graves Engineering, Inc. dated July 26, 2018 in regards to the project referenced above.

Meridian Associates, Inc. offers the following responses to the comments:

**Zoning By-Law**

1. The Board may wish to inquire about the applicant's intentions for employee parking during the construction phase of the project. Estabrook Avenue is a narrow road; on-street parking could affect vehicular traffic, especially for larger vehicles such as emergency vehicles. No vehicle parking should occur along Estabrook Avenue. (§1.3.3.1)

**Response:** A note has been added to sheet 3 stating: "There is to be no parking along Estabrook Avenue during the construction of the project." In addition, a location for construction phase parking has been added to sheets 8 and 10 of the plan set. The proposed parking location is located to the west of the proposed solar array.

2. The plans were prepared at a scale of 1" = 50' instead of 1" = 40'. The plans were legible, and we were able to read them and have no issue with the plan scale. However, we defer to the Planning Board if the scale of 1" = 50' is acceptable to the Board. (§1.3.3.3.d)

**Response:** No response required.

3. The locus map on the cover sheet needs to identify the site's location. (§1.3.3.3.d.8)

**Response:** The locus map on the cover sheet has been revised to depict the subject parcel.

**Regulations Governing Stormwater Management**

4. The hydrology computations must be prepared using precipitation amounts from the NRCC Cornell data. Data for a 24-hour storm event (not a one-day storm event) must be used. (§6.B.3.b)



replication area is removed from the stream reach where the impacts will occur, but it is not clear that there is a better location for the replication area than the currently-proposed location.

**Response:** Siting the wetland replication area closer to the stream is not practical for the following reasons:

1) Bordering vegetated wetlands occur adjacent to the stream for most of its length. Therefore, providing wetland replication immediately adjacent to the stream near the stream crossing is not possible.

2) The proposed wetland replication area measures roughly one hundred and twenty (120) linear feet from the nearest area of wetland alteration, and is currently vegetated primarily with brush and groundcover species. Significant removal of trees is not required to accommodate the proposed wetland replication area in its current location.

3) Access to the replication area can be provided by the existing farm road. No alteration of adjacent uplands is required to access the proposed replication area. Other areas that may be closer to the stream would likely require significantly more tree removal, not only for the replication area itself, but also for construction access to the replication area.

For the above reasons, LEC has determined that the proposed wetland replication area is in the best location possible for this site, and meets the intent and requirements of the WPA and Bylaw Regulations for wetland replication.

#### **Hydrology Review & MassDEP Stormwater Management**

11. GEI reviewed the hydrology computations and found them to be in order except as noted in the following comment.

**Response:** No response required.

12. Considering the estimated seasonal high groundwater at test pit TP-3, sedimentation basin 21P needs to be modeled with a starting water surface at the lowest outlet pipe elevation to account for times when the storage below the lowest outlet will not be available for a storm event.

**Response:** Sedimentation Basin 21P has been revised and an outlet orifice is located at the bottom of the basin.

13. In the post-development hydrology computations, the sedimentation basins were modeled as having storage one-foot below their lowest proposed topographic contour and a half-foot higher than their highest proposed topographic contour; the elevation information on the plans needs to be consistent with that in the hydrology computations.

**Response:** The hydrologic computations for the sedimentation basins have been adjusted accordingly.



Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES, INC.**

*David S. Kelley*

David S. Kelley, P.E.  
Senior Project Engineer

P:\6108\_Estabrook\_Grafton\_Phase3\ADMIN\Letters\_Memos\Response Letter\_Graves\_2018-07-27.doc

cc: BlueWave Capital, LLC